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4 May 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for the Development, Acquisition, Use and Administration of all Aspects of Official Cover

Reference is made to the memorandum, dated 13 April 1954, from the Inspector General to the Director of Central Intelligence which recommends that the DCI make a delegation of authority to DD/P to conduct the official cover program, covering all aspects, on behalf of the Agency.

While the Security Office does not feel that such program should be assigned on the premise that it is an "operation", nevertheless, if it is assigned to the Deputy Director for Plans, this Office will render full support to the end that the very bad situation which has historically prevailed may be improved.

If the Agency-wide responsibility is assigned to DD/P, this Office strongly feels that the resultant Agency Regulation should be coordinated with the Director of Security, (as distinguished from the proposed committee) prior to issuance and should include the following provisions:

- a. Nothing in the Regulation changes the inherent authority of the Director of Security to enter into any situation which appears to jeopardize the security of the Agency, or his responsibility to inspect and monitor cover activities from a security standpoint.
- b. All plans for use of Official Cover and full knowledge of covers used in the United States must be available to the Director of Security.
- c. The Director of Security is the principal representative of DD/A in cover matters.

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d. Nothing in the Regulation affects the liaison responsibility of the Director of Security with other Agencies of Government on investigative and security matters.

e. All matters of a policy nature relating to Official Cover programs will require the concurrence of appropriate Chiefs of Offices in DD/A prior to initiation of action in such programs.

In brief, it must be understood that the purpose of this committee is to plan and direct the use of cover on a long range, Agency-wide basis, and not to take over, or assume the functions and prerogatives of the individual offices or components represented. Any action, therefore, that either affects other offices or is within the mission of individual offices, must be approved by the official in charge of that component. The assignment of personnel to the proposed committee is not to be interpreted as a delegation of either responsibility or authority.

The above comments are submitted in accordance with your request.


Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

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